

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method to be performed by a data processing system to improve fault tolerance comprising:

providing distributed queuing of workflows, whose execution is requested by one or more execution-requesting clients, among a plurality of workflow engines; [[and]]

only if a workflow is successfully completed by a first workflow engine for an execution-requesting client, sending an explicit and delayed acknowledgement to the execution-requesting client, else assigning the workflow to a second workflow engine by sending it a work assignment message, in response to which the second workflow engine alone completes the workflow.

2. (Original) The method recited in claim 1, wherein providing is performed by a load manager.

3. (Original) The method recited in claim 2, wherein the load manager comprises a commercially available middleware product.

4. (Original) The method recited in claim 1, wherein the explicit and delayed acknowledgement is performed by a certified messaging capability.

5. (Original) The method recited in claim 4, wherein the certified messaging capability is performed by a load manager.

6. (Original) The method recited in claim 4, wherein the load manager comprises a commercially available middleware product.

7. (Original) The method recited in claim 4, wherein the certified messaging capability is performed by a certified message receiver forming part of the workflow.

8. (Original) The method recited in claim 4 and further comprising:  
the certified messaging capability sending an explicit and delayed acknowledgement to the execution-requesting client if the workflow is completed by the second workflow engine.
9. (Currently Amended) A method to be performed by a computer network comprising a plurality of clients and a plurality of workflow engines:  
providing distributed queuing of workflows, whose execution can be requested by one or more execution-requesting clients, among the plurality of workflow engines; and  
determining whether a workflow has been successfully completed by a first workflow engine on behalf of an execution-requesting client; and  
only if so, sending an explicit and delayed acknowledgement to the execution-requesting client;  
otherwise, assigning the workflow to a second workflow engine by sending it a work assignment message, and the second workflow engine alone completing the workflow.
10. (Original) The method recited in claim 9, wherein providing is performed by a load manager.
11. (Original) The method recited in claim 10, wherein the load manager comprises a commercially available middleware product.
12. (Original) The method recited in claim 9, wherein sending is performed by a certified messaging capability.
13. (Original) The method recited in claim 12, wherein the certified messaging capability is performed by a load manager.

14. (Original) The method recited in claim 12, wherein the load manager comprises a commercially available middleware product.
15. (Original) The method recited in claim 12, wherein the certified messaging capability is performed by a certified message receiver in the workflow.
16. (Original) The method recited in claim 12 and further comprising:  
the certified messaging capability sending an explicit and delayed acknowledgement to the execution-requesting client if the workflow is completed by the second workflow engine.
17. (Currently Amended) A computer adapted for use in a computer network comprising a plurality of workflow engines, the computer executing a computer program, the computer program operating the computer in a fault-tolerant manner and comprising the operations of:  
requesting a workflow execution on behalf of a client;  
a distributed queuing capability assigning the workflow execution to a first workflow engine;  
determining whether the workflow execution has been successfully completed by the first workflow engine; and  
only if so, sending an explicit and delayed acknowledgement to the client;  
otherwise, assigning the workflow execution to a second workflow engine by sending it a work assignment message, and the second workflow engine alone completing the workflow.
18. (Original) The computer recited in claim 17, wherein requesting is performed by a load manager.
19. (Original) The computer recited in claim 17, wherein sending is performed by a certified messaging capability.
20. (Original) The computer recited in claim 19, wherein the certified messaging capability is performed by a certified message receiver in the first workflow engine.

21. (Original) The computer recited in claim 19 and further comprising:  
the certified messaging capability sending an explicit and delayed acknowledgement to the client if the workflow execution is completed by the second workflow engine.
22. (Currently Amended) A computer network comprising:  
a plurality of clients;  
a plurality of workflow engines; and  
at least one computer program, the computer program operating in a fault-tolerant manner and performing the operations of:  
requesting a workflow execution on behalf of a client;  
assigning the workflow execution to a first workflow engine;  
determining whether the workflow execution has been successfully completed by the first workflow engine; and  
only if so, sending an explicit and delayed acknowledgement to the client;  
otherwise, assigning the workflow execution to a second workflow engine by sending it a work assignment message, and the second workflow engine alone completing the workflow.
23. (Previously Presented) The computer network recited in claim 22, wherein requesting is performed by a load manager having a distributed queuing capability.
24. (Original) The computer network recited in claim 22, wherein sending is performed by a certified messaging capability.
25. (Original) The computer network recited in claim 24, wherein the certified messaging capability is performed by a certified message receiver in the first workflow engine.
26. (Original) The computer network recited in claim 24 and further comprising:  
the certified messaging capability sending an explicit and delayed acknowledgement to the client if the workflow execution is completed by the second workflow engine.

27. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium containing computer instructions for instructing a processor, the processor adapted for use in a computer network comprising a plurality of workflow engines, wherein the instructions comprise:

requesting a workflow execution on behalf of a client;

a distributed queuing capability assigning the workflow execution to a first workflow engine;

determining whether the workflow execution has been successfully completed by the first workflow engine; and

only if so, sending an explicit and delayed acknowledgement to the client;

otherwise, assigning the workflow execution to a second workflow engine by sending it a work assignment message, and the second workflow engine alone completing the workflow.

28. (Original) The computer-readable medium recited in claim 27, wherein requesting is performed by a load manager.

29. (Original) The computer-readable medium recited in claim 27, wherein sending is performed by a certified messaging capability.

30. (Original) The computer-readable medium recited in claim 29, wherein the certified messaging capability is performed by a certified message receiver in the first workflow engine.

31. (Original) The computer-readable medium recited in claim 29 and further comprising: the certified messaging capability sending an explicit and delayed acknowledgement to the client if the workflow execution is completed by the second workflow engine.

32. (Currently Amended) An article comprising a machine-accessible medium having instructions for instructing a processor forming part of a plurality of workflow engines, wherein the instructions, when accessed, result in a machine performing:
- requesting a workflow execution on behalf of a client;
  - assigning the workflow execution to a first workflow engine;
  - determining whether the workflow execution has been successfully completed by the first workflow engine; and
  - only if so, sending an explicit and delayed acknowledgement to the client;
  - otherwise, assigning the workflow execution to a second workflow engine by sending it a work assignment message, and the second workflow engine alone completing the workflow.
33. (Previously Presented) The article recited in claim 32, wherein requesting is performed by a load manager having a distributed queuing capability.
34. (Previously Presented) The article recited in claim 32, wherein sending is performed by a certified messaging capability.
35. (Previously Presented) The article recited in claim 34, wherein the certified messaging capability is performed by a certified message receiver in the first workflow engine.
36. (Previously Presented) The article recited in claim 34 and further comprising:
- the certified messaging capability sending an explicit and delayed acknowledgement to the client if the workflow execution is completed by the second workflow engine.